

May 20, 2010



Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 2.2 million members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), I strongly urge you to vote **YES** on the *Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010* (H.R. 4213). This measure will provide a much needed boost to our economy and will help millions of people who continue to struggle to find work. The legislation includes a six-month extension of the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to provide fiscal relief to states; extensions of unemployment insurance and COBRA healthcare benefits to assist the unemployed through the end of 2010; as well as greater retirement security by strengthening pension plans that were devastated by the economic downturn.

MARY KAY HENRY
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TOM WOODRUFF
Executive Vice President

States continue to struggle to fill recession-starved budgets, and historic and painfully high levels of unemployment have resulted in record increases in the Medicaid program. The temporary increase to FMAP under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) will expire December 31, 2010, in the middle of most states' 2011 fiscal year. Without additional FMAP assistance, states making FY 2011 budget decisions will be forced to make additional cutbacks to vital health and other public services; and an additional 900,000 jobs could be lost in order to close these budget gaps. As governors representing both political parties have pointed out, extension of the enhanced federal match for Medicaid will greatly assist them in maintaining essential services and further stabilizing the economy.

We support immediate action to extend vital safety net programs, including the Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Extended Benefits programs, the additional \$25 per week in people's benefits check, and COBRA subsidies for jobless workers in this bill. The ongoing short-term extensions of these programs have resulted in disarray and confusion, heightened uncertainty for the unemployed who are already struggling to make ends meet, and difficult administrative challenges for state agencies and workers who administer unemployment insurance programs. We must do better.

Please note, **SEIU will add votes related to passage of the *Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010* to our Congressional Score Card located on our website at www.seiu.org.** Should you have any questions, contact Saralee Todd, Senior Legislative Advocate, at 202-730-7362 or saralee.todd@seiu.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anna Burger'.

Anna Burger
International Secretary-Treasurer

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